

OFFICE OF THE POST SURGEON  
STATION HOSPITAL

REF/MI

Fort Huachuca, Arizona  
February 10, 1943

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HEADQUARTERS  
FORT HUACHUCA

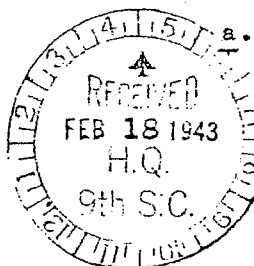
SUBJECT: Annual Report of Medical Department Activities at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. 1942 -

TO : The Commanding General, Services of Supply, War Department,  
Washington, D. C. Attention: The Surgeon General. (Thru: Military Channels)

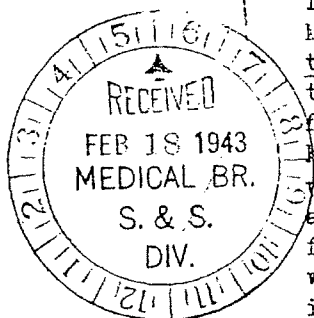
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Pursuant to instructions contained in Par. 4, AR 40-1005 and Circular Letter No. 168, Office of the Surgeon General, December 8, 1942, the following narrative report is submitted:

1. Early history of medical department activities:



a. Following the Civil War the Territory of Arizona was beyond the law and local peace officers were completely inadequate to cope with the acts of white smugglers and desperados on the one hand and Indians on the other. In an attempt to provide police of a sort, Companies B and M, Sixth Cavalry, commanded by Captains W. M. Whitside and W. A. Rafferty, were ordered to the Huachuca Mountains to protect the new settlers, maintain the neutrality of the International Boundary, and stop the marauding of the Indians and desperados.



b. On March 3, 1877, they bivouaced at the site of an old wood-cutting camp at the foot of Huachuca Peak, at Lat. 31° 12' N., Long. 33° 49' W, elevation 5306 feet, the site of the present post; 59 airline miles SSE of Tucson and 22 miles SW of Tombstone, Arizona. The first surgeon, O. J. Eddy, a Contract Surgeon, arrived on March 23, 1877, and the first hospital consisted of two tents and two flies with a complement of "several" enlisted men. By 1879 the camp boasted seven stockade buildings with mud roofs, two frame buildings with shingle roofs, and tentage. The hospital and expanded to four hospital tents, of which two were used for wards and the others for storage and offices; wall tents served as mess halls and kitchens. A dispensary of stockade 35 by 18 feet with two rooms completed the medical installation. The first water supply was obtained from a creek running through the camp; it was reported to be "of excellent quality." By 1882 reports of the achievements of the garrison had reached Washington, and in that year General W. T. Sherman inspected the camp. Following this trip, the camp was redesignated Fort Huachuca, and appropriations for permanent construction were authorized. A 25 bed frame hospital was one of the projects of this construction program, and Contract Surgeon Leonard A. Wood, one of the first to command it.

- c. The Fort was a training center during the war with Spain and when Mexican revolutionaries became active during the next few years, the Fourth and Sixth Cavalry were reassigned to the Fort in 1910 and the tempo reached a new peak of activity. The next year a permanent water supply system was constructed, consisting of seven miles of collecting pipe line to springs in the canyons and a 250,000 gallons masonry reservoir supplementing the 4,000 gallon tank previously in use and still existing near Carnahan Hall. In 1912 the supply was augmented by an eight inch well in the mouth of Garden Canyon, provided with an air lift pump which produced 50,000 gallons per day.
- d. Although Negro troops had long been present on the Fort, it was not until December, 1913, that the 10th Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Gresham, took over the Fort which then became completely garrisoned by colored troops for the first time. In the next year a 32 bed frame annex to the existing hospital became necessary. Three years later the Tenth joined Pershing's Punitive Expedition into Mexico after Pancho Villa, to return in February, 1917, where they remained for the duration of World War I on border patrol duty assisted by the 25th Infantry, recently returned from Hawaii, who were stationed at Camp Stephen D. Little, Nogales, Arizona, the present site of a recreation camp. Gradual increase in population made it necessary by 1919 to bring several more springs into the water supply system. A new era began in 1928, when a battalion of the 25th Infantry was assigned from Camp Little; the Tenth Cavalry left the Fort in September, 1931, and the other battalion of the 25th joined the regiment two years later. The 25th maintained its traditional state of training, and when war clouds over Europe cast their shadows over the Huachuclas, it furnished cadres for its third battalion and heavy weapons company early in 1941 and in March of the same year for the reactivated 368th Infantry.
- e. In anticipation of expansion, construction was begun October 1, 1940 of a 196 bed cantonment type frame hospital on a 250 bed basis three miles east of the site of Captain Whitside's bivouac, and on May 19, 1941, the 60 year old hospital with its 30 year old annex was abandoned for medical uses and the new hospital in the cantonment since designated as Station Hospital No. 2, was formally opened. This hospital contains 26 buildings, including quarters, dental clinic, boiler house, morgue, warehouses and a Red Cross Building, as is shown in Appendix I. Within five months it had become insufficient capacity, and even before construction of additional hospitalization was begun it was necessary to use two old barracks three miles away on the Post proper as wards for venereal patients.
- f. When the activation of the 93rd Infantry Division became certain, plans were received for a 551 bed hospital on a 676 basis. Based on a recommendation of the Post Surgeon these plans were expanded to cover the full 676 beds and a PY-1 Building was authorized at the same time. Building was started on January 4, 1942 to forma

- (a) The buildings are of frame, of standard color. Drainage is excellent. As vegetation will not grow without the use of large quantities of water which is not available, landscaping consists for the most part of rock walls and cacti. The units are adequate and suitable for the uses for which they were designed.

b. Water Supply:

The water supply now in use is dual, consisting of the system heretofore outlined plus five wells at the eastern edge of the cantonment. Storage of 0.4 million gallons above the Old Post and 4 million gallons above the cantonment is possible; this represents a three day supply and is adequate for fire protection. One hundred and ten gallons of water per capita were used in 1942 and at the present time not over 50 percent of the available capacity of the water system is utilized. No treatment other than chlorination is given the water, that from the springs being chlorinated as it enters the reservoir while the well water is treated at the pumps which elevate it to storage. It is bacteriologically potable after chlorination; water from the well is potable raw while that from the springs is contaminated roughly half of the time.

c. Bathing facilities:

Bathing facilities are adequate. Shower heads are available in the ratio of 66 per thousand men and there is ample hot water. Two small swimming pools exist on the Old Post and are not available to the bulk of the men. These are fill-and-draw and are manually chlorinated; water from their drainage is used for irrigation of trees and shrubs.

d. Laundry:

The hospital laundry is done by the Post Quartermaster Laundry, where the service is satisfactory. Repairs are made by the Medical Supply Officer, who employs civilian seamstresses. The cost per patient day in 1942 was \$0.118 for laundry alone, not including depreciation of linen.

9. Food and Messing, Garbage and Waste Disposal:

- a. The food supply is adequate and operation of the messes is satisfactory. Vegetables and fresh fruits are procured from the Phoenix markets and brought to the Post by the wholesaler, and staples and meats are obtainable at reasonable cost from the Quartermaster. The money allowance is sufficient and no difficulty has been experienced in procuring food in ample variety and quantity. Continual and extreme measures are necessary to prevent the waste of food.
- b. Master menus are prepared by the senior mess officer and after approval of the Post Surgeon are used in both hospitals. He has a dietitian on his staff and the services of the Post Food and